

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 IO-12

OMB-01 CU-04 OPR-02 AID-20 EB-11 RSR-01 /130 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1982

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2668

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: POST NOW- RUZ STUDENT SITUATION

REF: TEHRAN 1726

SUMMARY: LENGTHY NOW- RUZ (IRANIAN NEW YEAR) HOLIDAYS
APPEAR TO HAVE SERVED TO SOME EXTENT AS COOLING OFF
PERIOD FOR STUDENTS. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE RE-
OPENED USUALLY WITHOUT INCIDENT ALTHOUGH SOME INDIVIDUAL
FACULTIES REMAIN CLOSED. SOME INSTITUTIONS HAVE BEEN
CLOSED AGAIN FOLLOWING FURTHER STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
AND TWO FACULTY MEMBERS REPORTEDLY WERE BEATEN BY SECURITY
AUTHORITIES DURING PRE- NOW- RUZ RIOT. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 14
CARRIED FIRST HINT OF DISTURBANCES IN REPORTING OF HOVEYDA
DENIAL IN LONDON THAT 16 STUDENTS KILLED AND 400 ARRESTED
AT TABRIZ UNIVERSITY. END SUMMARY

1. THE ANNUAL TWO WEEK NOW- RUZ VACATION, ANTICIPATED IN
SOME CASES BY CLOSING OF PART OR ALL OF MOST COLLEGES
AND UNIVERSITIES FOLLOWING STUDENT RIOTS, SEEMS TO HAVE
ALLOWED STUDENTS TIME TO COOL DOWN. MOST SCHOOLS REOPENED
WITHOUT INCIDENT, THOUGH SOME OF THEM REMAIN PARTIALLY
OR, IN THE CASE OF THREE SCHOOLS, WHOLLY CLOSED DOWN.
PARTIAL SURVEY OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES REVEALS:
A. TEHRAN UNIVERSITY HAS REOPENED ALL FACULTIES BUT
SOME STUDENTS (NUMBERS UNKNOWN) WHO WERE REPORTEDLY INVOLVED
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IN PRE- NOW- RUZ DISTURBANCES HAVE BEEN FORBIDDEN BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO RETURN TO SCHOOL FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD.

UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS NOTED THAT THEY HAVE EXPELLED NO ONE.

B. TEHRAN'S NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ALSO OPEN BUT CAFETERIA, WHICH BADLY DAMAGED DURING RIOTS, STILL CLOSED. UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED NOT TO REOPEN UNIVERSITY CAFETERIA AT ALL BUT, AS CONTROL MEASURE TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE CAFETERIAS FOR EACH COLLEGE WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY. MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR CALMING THE NU STUDENTS APPARENTLY GOES TO DR. HASSAN KIANPUR, CHAIRMAN OF CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT AND FORMER DEAN OF FACULTY OF SCIENCE. KIANPUR, WHO REPORTEDLY HAS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH MANY NU STUDENTS, SAID TO HAVE CONVINCED THEM THAT THEY COULD GAIN NOTHING BY DEMONSTRATING AND PROMISED HE WOULD ATTEMPT OBTAIN RELEASE OF SOME OF ARRESTED NU STUDENTS IF DEMONSTRATORS SUBSIDED. STUDENTS COMPLIED AND KIANPUR WAS ULTIMATELY SUCCESSFUL IN ARRANGING RELEASE OF QTE SOME STUDENTS UNQTE.

C. MASHAD UNIVERSITY, WHICH ONLY CLOSED SCIENCE FACULTY BEFORE NOW- RUZ, HAS REOPENED, BUT SCIENCE FACULTY IS STILL SHUT DOWN.

D. TABRIZ UNIVERSITY, SCENE BLOODIEST CLASH, HAS REOPENED EXCEPT FOR ENGINEERING FACULTY WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO RESUME OPERATIONS THIS ACADEMIC YEAR.

E. TEHRAN POLYTECHNIC, AN ENGINEERING DIVISION OF TEHRAN U. ON SEPARATE CAMPUS, REOPENED BUT CLOSED AGAIN FOLLOWING A STUDENT DEMONSTRATION APRIL 5.

F. KARAJ AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (36 KM FROM TEHRAN) REMAINS CLOSED SINCE STUDENTS REPUTEDLY DEMONSTRATED IN SUPPORT OF A GROUP OF BLACK- CLAD WORKERS WHO MARCHED IN FAVOR OF GOALS OF SIA KAL (LEFTIST ANTI- REGIME GROUP WHICH LAUNCHED 1971 ATTACK ON GENDARMERIE POST NEAR SIA KAL IN GILAN PROVINCE) GROUP AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY ARRESTED.

G. ACCORDING CHAIRMAN REHJALLI OF PARS COLLEGE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, SERIES OF PRE- NOW- RUZ DEMONSTRATIONS, WHICH BEGAN OVER LOCAL ISSUES BUT EXPANDED TO INCLUDE ANTI- REGIME COMPLAINTS AND OPPOSITION TO GOI PURCHASE OF US ARMS, RESULTED IN CLOSING OF PARS COLLEGE BEFORE NOW- RUZ. IT HAS NOT YET BEEN REOPENED.

H. IN POSSIBLY UNRELATED INCIDENT, POLICE REPUTEDLY RAIDED NAJAFABAD RELIGIOUS COLLEGE NEAR ISFAHAN APRIL 13 IN SEARCH OF WANTED INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED HIDING THERE. STUDENTS OBJECTED TO SEARCH AND AUTHORITIES CLOSED DOWN SCHOOL.
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I. LOCAL PRESS FOR APRIL 17 DESCRIBED FIRE AT JONDI

SHAPOUR UNIVERSITY IN AHWAZ. BLAZE DESTROYED OFFICES OF CHANCELLOR, VICE CHANCELLOR, PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE, AMPITHEATER, CENTRAL LIBRARY AND ACCOUNTINGSDEPARTMENT. NEWSPAPERS DID NOT SPECULATE AS TO CAUSE BUT, IN VIEW SERIOUS RIOTS AT UNIVERSITY IN JANUARY, OCCURS TO US THAT ARSON IS A POSSIBILITY.

2. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 14 CARRIED FIRST PUBLISHED REFERENCE TO STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN COVERAGE OF PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA' S STATEMENT IN LONDON. HOVEYDA REPORTEDLY DESCRIBED FIGURES OF 16 STUDENTS KILLED AND 400 ARRESTED IN TABRIZ AS QTE PURE RUBBISH UNQTE MAINTAINING NO STUDENTS KILLED AND THAT 400 NOT ARRESTED. HE WENT ON TO LAY BLAME FOR EXAGGERATED FIGURES ON UNNAMED ENEMIES OF IRAN WHO QTE SPREAD THESE LIES WITH THE INTENTIONS OF AROUSING THE FEELINGF OF STUDENTS AND OTHERS UNQTE. COMMENT: IN THE PAST, SCHOOLS WHICH HAVE HAD PRE- NOW- RUZ TROUBLES HAVE USUALLY REOPENED AFTER VACATION WITHOUT INCIDENT. FACT OF CONTINUING CLOSURES, OR PARTIAL CLOSURES, IS APPARENT TESTAMENT THAT STUDENTS ARE STILL AROUSED DESPITE EVIDENTLY CALMED TEMPERS. PM HOVEYDA TO THE CONTRARY, EMBASSY REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT AT LEAST TWO AND POSSIBLY THREE STUDENTS KILLED AT TABRIZ AND, WHILE WE HAVE NO DEPENDABLE FIGURES FOR NUMBER OF ARRESTS, 400 DOES NOT SEEM OUTLANDISH GIVEN SIZE, INTENSITY AND DURATION OF TABRIZ RIOTS. WE FIND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT IN VIEW PAST MONTH' S TOTAL NEWS BLACKOUT ON STUDENT TROUBLES HOVEYDA' S REMARKS ON TABRIZ VIOLENCE WERE PUBLISHED AT ALL.

STUDENT MOTIVATIONS RANGE FROM DISSATISFACTION WITH HARDER LINE ON UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS AND GRADING PROCEDURES TO SUCH NATIONAL MATTERS AS OPPOSITION TO LARGE GOI ARMS EXPENDITURES, RECENT OIL DEAL AND GENERALIZED DISLIKE OF SHAH' S REGIME. IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY WHAT PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS SHARE THESE DISSATISFACTIONS BUT IT IS EVIDENT THAT MANY DEMONSTRATORS ARE STRONGLY REPELLED BY PRESENT REGIME AND HARBOR UNFRIENDLY SENTIMENTS TOWARDS US WHICH THEY REGARD AS PRINCIPAL FOREIGN ENEMY DUE LARGELY TO CONTINUING AMERICAN SUPPORTFOR THE SHAH. DESPITE BROAD- BASED NATURE OF PROTESTS, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS REMAIN NO MORE THAT DOMESTIC IRRITANT AND INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOI. END OF COMMENT
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